

- 4 -

In the Claims:

Claims 1 – 5 withdrawn.

Claim 6 (currently amended) An apparatus for forming elongated alternately slit segments in deformable strip comprising a pair of opposed rolls each having a plurality of spaced discs having opposite side walls and circumferential, equally spaced, convexly shaped tool surfaces alternating with substantially flat surfaces, said discs having radial notches formed in the opposite sidewalls of alternate circumferential flat surfaces, whereby peripheral surfaces of opposing rolls are adapted to interact on deformable strip passing therebetween to slit and form convex segments and alternate nodes in said strip by intermeshing of said shaped tool surfaces, and a third roll having a substantially smooth peripheral surface in opposition to one roll of the pair of opposed rolls, equispaced circumferential protuberances formed at each end of the third roll or at each end of the roll of the pair of opposed rolls in opposition thereto for engagement with a mating circumferential recess in the other roll in opposition thereto, whereby the third roll and a said roll of the pair of opposed rolls in opposition thereto are adapted to interact on deformed strip passing therebetween for providing edge centred means on the side edges of the deformed strip.

Claim 7 (withdrawn).

Claim 8 (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 7 6, one of said third roll or opposed roll in opposition thereto additionally comprising a central circumferential ridge for engagement with a mating circumferential recess in the other roll for roll-forming a longitudinal central ridge in the deformed strip.

Claim 9 (withdrawn).

Claim 10 (withdrawn).